Ensuring High-Speed Internet Access to All

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invests ~$65B to ensure everyone in America has access to Internet service.

Goal is to build infrastructure that provides reliable high-speed Internet **access** to all Americans **for today and tomorrow...**

...with a focus on making high-speed Internet service **affordable** and **reliable** so **everyone** can participate in the economy...

... and providing the resources needed to **equitably** expand the adoption and use of the Internet so **everyone** can experience the benefits.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law invests roughly $65B into high-speed Internet efforts through 7 federal programs:

Administered by NTIA
- **Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program ($42.45B)**
- **Digital Equity Planning, Capacity and Competitive Grants ($2.75B)**
- Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program ($2.00B)
- Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program ($1.0B)

Administered by other federal agencies
- Affordable Connectivity Program ($14.2B)
- Rural Broadband Programs at the Department of Agriculture ($2.0B)
- Private Activity Bonds ($0.6B)

Introduction to BEAD

BEAD Program Introduction

INTERNET FOR ALL

BEAD program will provide ~$42.5B for infrastructure planning and implementation.

Funding pool
$42.45B

A program to get all Americans online by funding partnerships between states or territories, communities, and stakeholders to build infrastructure where we need to and increase adoption of high-speed Internet service.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

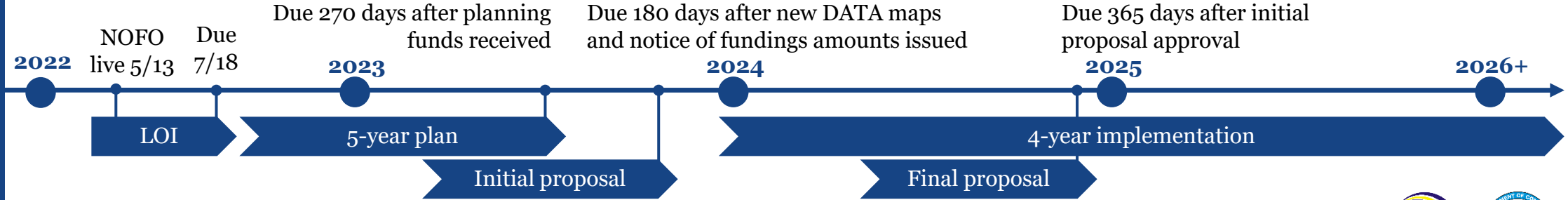### Entities eligible to apply for this program include:
- All 50 States
- The District of Columbia and Puerto Rico
- Other Territories: U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Example eligible uses of funds include:

☆ Planning for deployment of the Internet

☆ Deploying or upgrading Internet service

☆ Installing Internet in multi-tenant buildings

☆ Implementing adoption and digital equity programs

☆ Workforce and job training

ESTIMATED TIMELINE

Timeline approximate unless exact date specified

Due 270 days after planning funds received

Due 180 days after new DATA maps and notice of fundings amounts issued

Due 365 days after initial proposal approval

2022 NOFO live 5/13 Due 7/18 **2023** **2024** **2025** **2026+**

LOI

5-year plan

Initial proposal

4-year implementation

Final proposal

NTIA

Goals of the BEAD Program

BEAD helps deliver high-speed Internet access, affordability, and adoption.

Access

Increases access for unserved and underserved households to ensure that all Americans have access to high-speed Internet service

Ensures Americans have access to **high-quality, high-speed Internet service** to support full participation in the 21st century economy and beyond

Affordability

Supports **affordability** of high-speed Internet services, esp. in low-income households

Fosters a system that **promotes long-term, sustainable, affordable solutions**

Adoption and equity

Enables investment in digital skills training to increase the number of households adopting high-speed Internet service and narrow adoption disparities

Makes investments to ensure Americans can **participate in economy & society, reducing inequities** across sectors, including healthcare, workforce & education

Ensuring Complete Coverage

The BEAD Program requires complete coverage of unserved locations and underserved locations (where funding permits)

(1) **States and Territories must serve all unserved locations (including multi-tenant buildings)**

Unserved locations without reliable Internet service and with download speeds <25 Mbps, upload speeds <3 Mbps, and latency <100ms

(2) **States and Territories must serve all underserved locations**

Underserved locations without reliable Internet service and with download speeds <100 Mbps, upload speeds <20 Mbps, and latency <100 ms

(3) **NTIA strongly urges States and Territories serve Eligible Community Anchor Institutions**

- *Eligible Community Anchor Institutions* are entities (e.g., school, library, hospital) that facilitate greater use of high-speed Internet service by vulnerable populations and have download speed <1 Gbps
- *Other eligible uses* include affordability programs, cybersecurity training, workforce development, etc.
- If state/territory wants to use funds for other eligible uses instead of eligible Community Anchor Institutions, then it must provide a strong rationale

Note: If a state/territory has a plan to deploy service to all unserved and underserved locations within its jurisdiction, it may pursue non-deployment initiatives before or while deployment projects are underway

Introduction to Digital Equity

Digital Equity Act Introduction

Digital Equity Act created three programs to promote digital equity and inclusion.

Funding pool
$2.75B

Three programs that provide funding to promote digital inclusion and advance equity for all. They aim to ensure that all communities can access and use affordable, reliable high-speed Internet service to meet their needs and improve their lives.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Digital Equity Act created three programs:

State Planning
- $60M formula funding program to develop digital equity plans

State Capacity
- $1.44B formula funding program to implement plans & promote digital inclusion
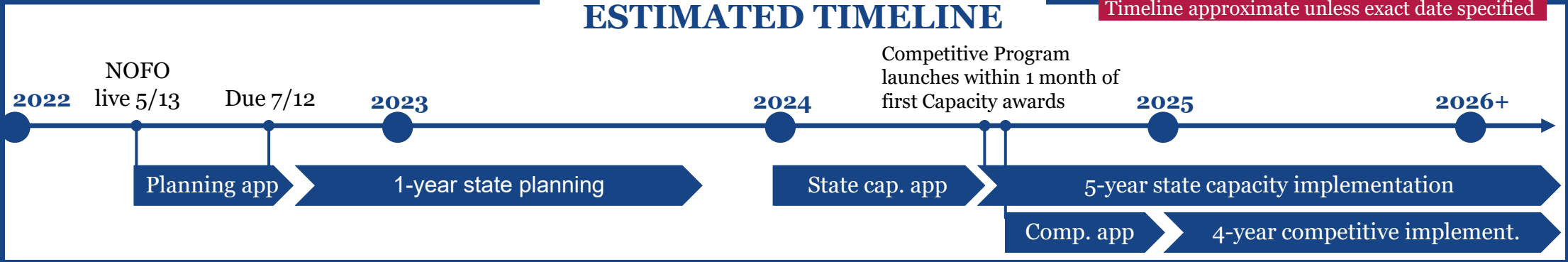
Competitive
- $1.25B to implement digital equity and inclusion activities

Example eligible uses of funds by program include:

- Developing digital equity plans; states must develop a plan to be eligible for state capacity grants
- Making awards to other entities to help make digital equity plans
- Improving accessibility and inclusivity of public resources

- Implementing digital equity plans and related activities
- Providing digital literacy and digital skills education
- Facilitating the adoption of high-speed Internet service

ESTIMATED TIMELINE

Timeline approximate unless exact date specified

2022 NOFO live 5/13 Due 7/12 **2023** **2024** Competitive Program launches within 1 month of first Capacity awards **2025** **2026+**

- Planning app
- 1-year state planning
- State cap. app
- 5-year state capacity implementation
- Comp. app
- 4-year competitive implement.

Covered Populations

The Digital Equity Act focuses on addressing the needs of "covered populations" as defined by the statute.

Covered Populations
Identity groups and communities disproportionally impacted by digital inequity

- Low-income households
- Aging populations
- Incarcerated individuals
- Veterans

- People with disabilities
- People with language barriers
- Racial and ethnic minorities
- Rural inhabitants

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY
& ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PENNSYLVANIA BROADBAND
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

House Bill 2071 introduced in November 2021

Act 96 signed into law December 22, 2021
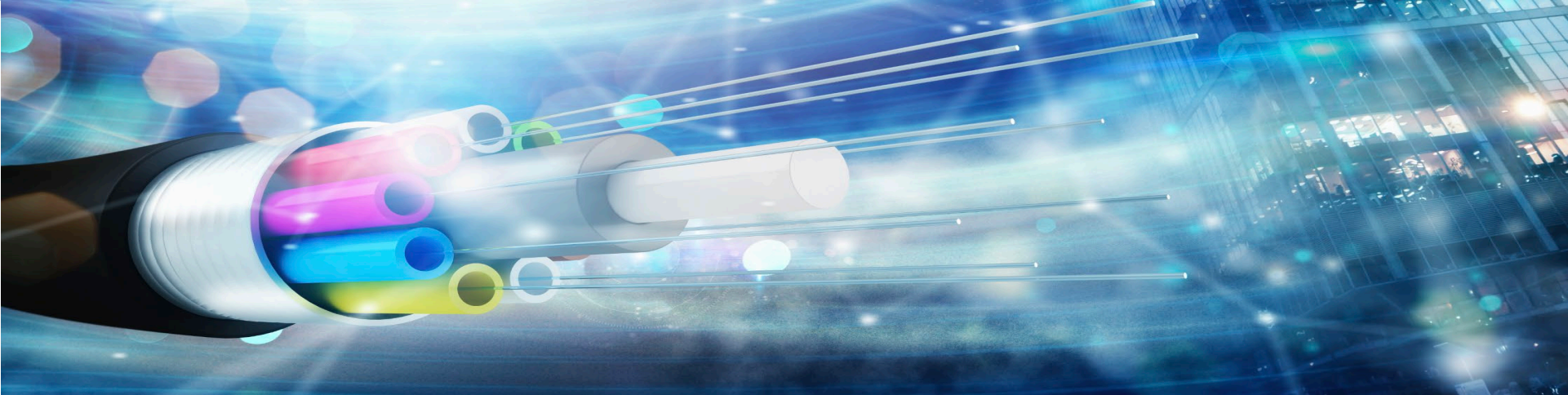
Independent agency of DCED

Governed by an 11-member board

STATEWIDE PLAN

STATEWIDE BROADBAND PLAN

Four core challenges facing Pennsylvanians' ability to access or adopt broadband:

1. Broadband Service Infrastructure & Availability

2. Digital Equity & Affordability

3. Device & Technology Access

4. Digital Literacy & Technical Support

➢ Plan Approved November 2022

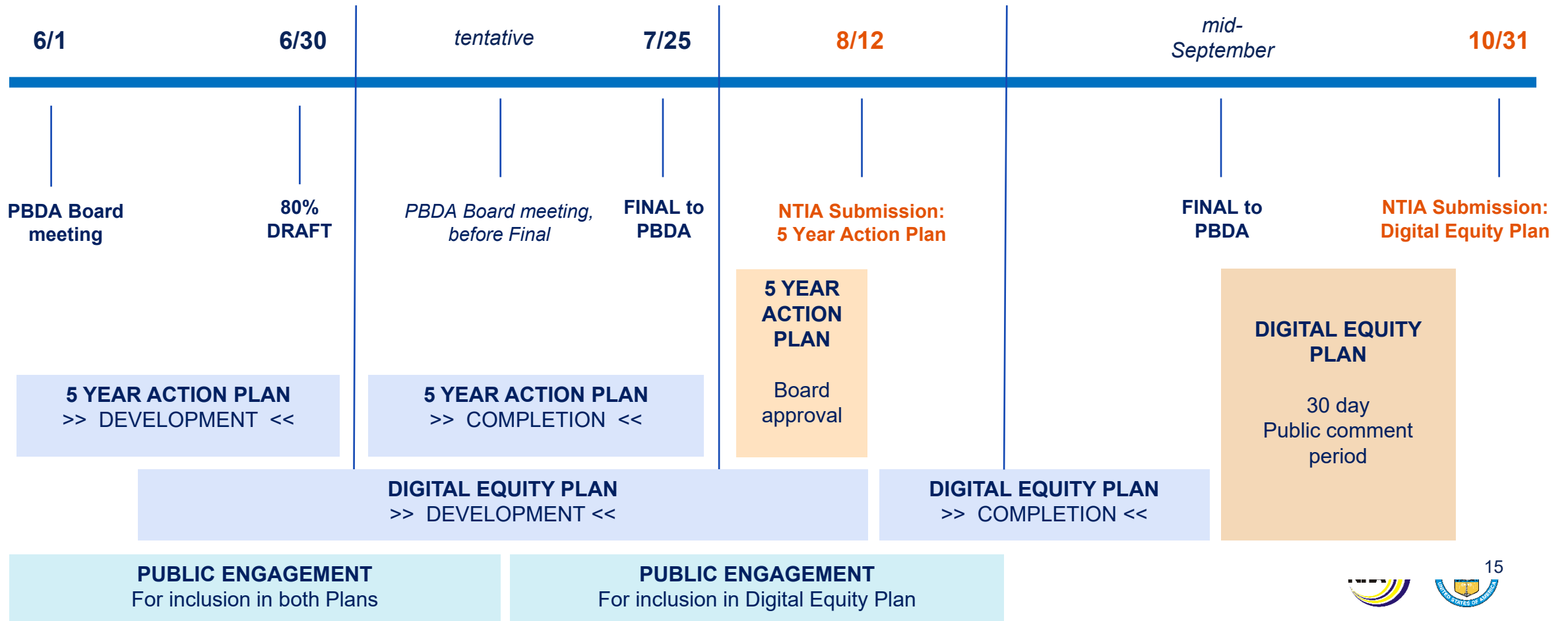➢ Framework for BEAD 5-Year Action Plan and Statewide Digital Equity Plan

IMPLEMENTATION OF BEAD, DE,
AND CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND

SCHEDULE

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY
& ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FCC Broadband Map & funding allocations expected

| 6/1 | 6/30 | *tentative* | 7/25 | 8/12 | *mid-September* | 10/31 |

PBDA Board meeting | **80% DRAFT** | *PBDA Board meeting, before Final* | **FINAL to PBDA** | **NTIA Submission: 5 Year Action Plan** | **FINAL to PBDA** | **NTIA Submission: Digital Equity Plan**

5 YEAR ACTION PLAN Board approval

5 YEAR ACTION PLAN >> DEVELOPMENT <<

5 YEAR ACTION PLAN >> COMPLETION <<

DIGITAL EQUITY PLAN 30 day Public comment period

DIGITAL EQUITY PLAN >> DEVELOPMENT <<

DIGITAL EQUITY PLAN >> COMPLETION <<

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT For inclusion in both Plans

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT For inclusion in Digital Equity Plan

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FUNDING IMPLICATIONS

BROADBAND ACCESS, EQUITY, AND DEPLOYMENT (BEAD)

⭐ 5 Year Action Plan

- *Planning Grant funds received ($5MM)*

Initial Proposal

- *Due December 2023*

Final Proposal

- *Due after Initial proposal review, challenges, continued public engagement, and revisions are completed.*
- *Full BEAD funds will be available at this time.*

DIGITAL EQUITY ACT

⭐ Digital Equity Plan

- *Planning Grant funds received ($1.6MM)*

Capacity Grant

- *Available to the Commonwealth in 2024*

Competitive Grant

- *Available to the all eligible entities, not limited to states, in 2024*

- Project Coordination
  - Weekly meetings with PBDA
  - Weekly activity progress tracking

- Strategy Support
  - Strategic planning session with PBDA
  - Stakeholder analysis & database management

- Public Engagement
  - 20 community events
  - 4 Roundtables
  - Communications Toolkit
  - PBDA Subcommittee meetings
  - PBDA Board Meetings
  - Statewide survey
  - Other stakeholder involvement (including stakeholder working group participation, follow-up interviews, and a questionnaire)
  - And public engagement event tracking to meet NTIA requirements

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TASK 2: 5 YEAR ACTION PLAN

- Current State of Broadband
  - Broadband Asset Inventory
  - Existing programs, funding sources, planned projects, and capacity
  - Existing partners

- Barriers and Obstacles
  - Assessment of known or anticipated barriers

- Local Coordination
  - Engagement to guide the 5 Year Plan
  - A plan for continued local/ stakeholder collaboration and coordination

- Implementation Steps
  - Goals and strategies
  - Broadband Readiness Framework and Checklist
  - High-level plan for universal service, including timeline and costs
  - Digital equity and inclusion goals
  - Plan alignment with other statewide connectivity priorities
    - Local/county broadband plans
    - Other relevant and connected efforts across sectors, i.e. economic development

- Barriers and Needs Assessment

  - Digital Equity Asset Inventory

  - Stakeholder Inventory Questionnaire

  - Deep Dive Stakeholder Interviews

  - Incorporation of Localized Digital Equity Plans

- Development of an Implementation Strategy

  - Measurable Objectives (goals)

  - Performance Standards

  - Best Practices and NDIA Collaboration

  - Partnerships for Implementation

- Coordinated Stakeholder Outreach

- Final Plan

  - Prefinal to PBDA

  - 30-day Public Review and comment period

  - Final Plan completed for NTIA submission

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FOR THE BEAD FIVE-YEAR ACTION AND DIGITAL EQUITY PLANS

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT – 4 KEY COMPONENTS

1 Community Conversations

Community residents, community leaders, local nonprofits, local elected officials, community- and faith-based organizations.

2 Community-Serving Stakeholder Roundtables

Community anchor institutions, coalitions/associations, State agencies (e.g. housing, transportation, public works)

3 Thematic Roundtables

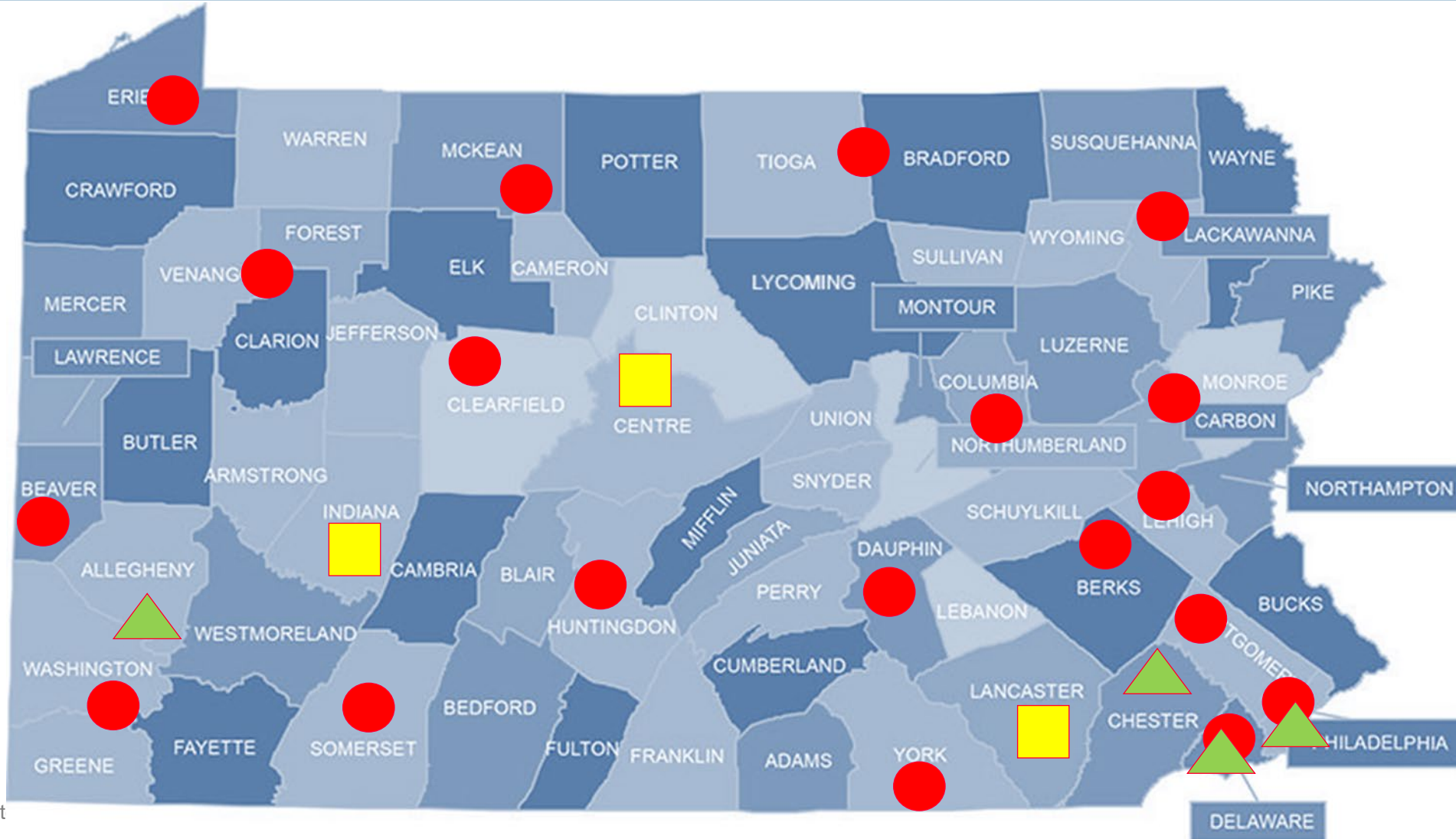*Industry Roundtable: Broadband service providers, wireless providers, Public Utilities Commissions; Workforce Development Roundtable*
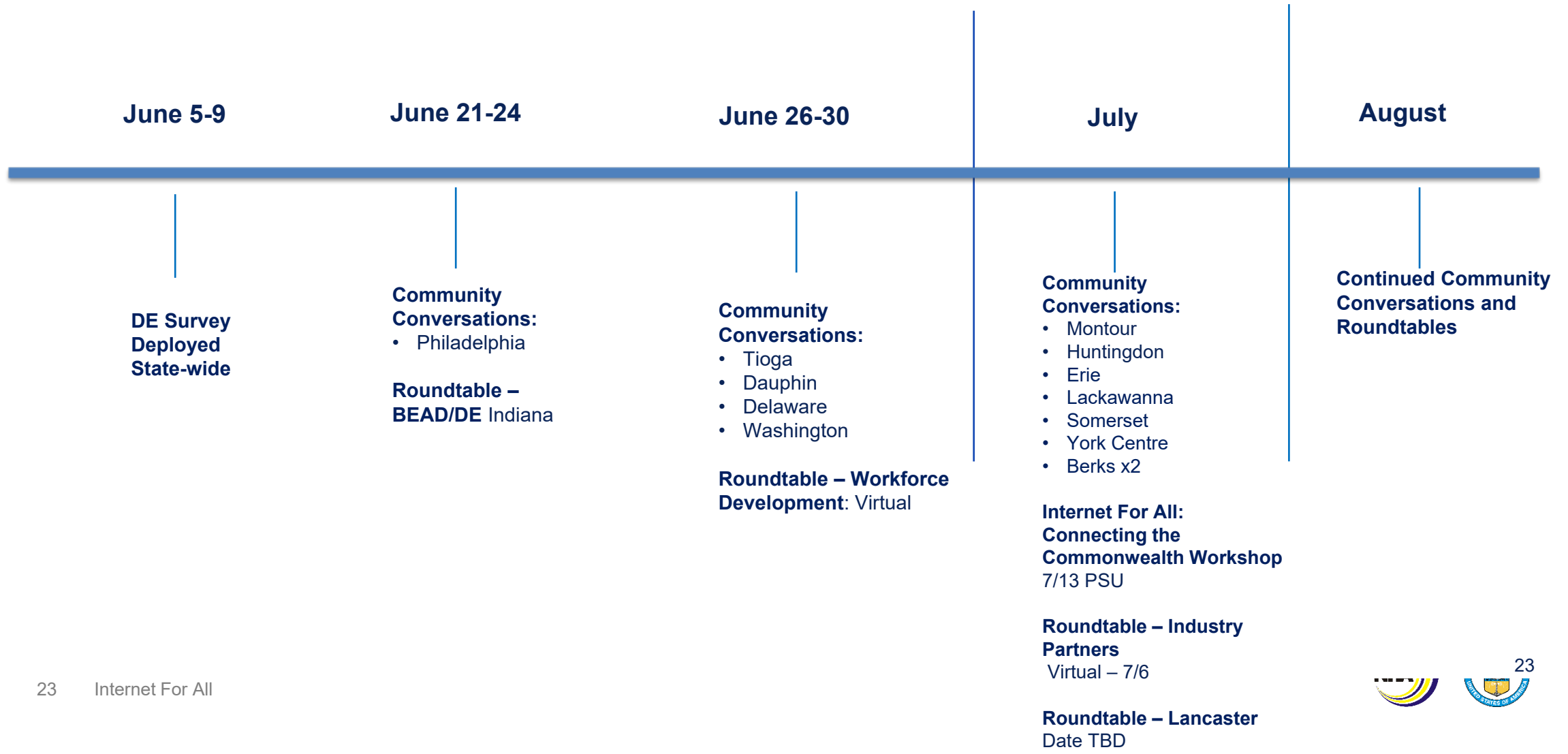
Surveys and Questionnaires

4 *A statewide resident survey, and targeted questionnaires prepared for the stakeholder working group, state agencies, and a sampling of community organizations. Results from a local government survey conducted previously in 2022 by PBDA will be incorporated.*

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT EVENTS TIMELINE

June 5-9	June 21-24	June 26-30	July	August

June 5-9

DE Survey Deployed State-wide

June 21-24

Community Conversations:
- Philadelphia

Roundtable – BEAD/DE Indiana

June 26-30

Community Conversations:
- Tioga
- Dauphin
- Delaware
- Washington

Roundtable – Workforce Development: Virtual

July

Community Conversations:
- Montour
- Huntingdon
- Erie
- Lackawanna
- Somerset
- York Centre
- Berks x2

Internet For All: Connecting the Commonwealth Workshop
7/13 PSU

Roundtable – Industry Partners
Virtual – 7/6

Roundtable – Lancaster
Date TBD

August

Continued Community Conversations and Roundtables

BEAD
- $100,000,000.00 – Initial Allocation
- $1,161,778,272.41 – Final Allocation

Digital Equity
- Planning Funds: $1,604,131.73
- Capacity Funds: TBD (anticipated 2024)
- Competitive Funds: Must apply (anticipated 2024)

Capital Projects Fund
- $279MM
- 3 Competitive Grant Programs
  - BIP - $200 MM (Open)
  - Multi-Purpose Community Facilities Program - $45 MM
  - Device Access - $20 MM

Action Items and Available Resources

Action Items

Local Governments should follow the following action items to ensure they are staying up to date and involved in the process.

①	**Assemble a Team**	• Figure out what skills you need on your team to be successful • Identify people to join your team • Select a team member to lead your high-speed Internet project
②	**Determine Your Priorities**	• Understand the basic concepts behind high-speed Internet access and use • Engage a wide and diverse range of stakeholder groups to identify barriers to meaningful high-speed Internet access and/or adoption • Identify ways in which your plan can address those barriers
③	**Explore the Data**	• Explore data sources that provide insight into what high-speed Internet access looks like in your community • Learn how to measure your community's current Internet usage and access
④	**Build Relationships for Success**	• Consider certain types of partnerships that are often involved in the planning process • Identify partners to engage throughout planning and project implementation • Your coalition should be representative of all those that you serve
⑤	**Select the Right Solutions**	• Evaluate options to execute your plan, including technologies or programs • Explore funding options available to support the plan execution
⑥	**Prepare a Budget**	• Detail the expenses that your high-speed Internet plan will include • Consider various cost options and provide justification for each cost that you select
⑦	**Chart a Path Forward**	• Develop a project plan to guide execution of your high-speed Internet plan

Nicole Ugarte
Federal Program Officer, Pennsylvania
nugarte@ntia.gov

THANK YOU